

HRA RENTAL HOMES PROGRAM

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE MONEY TO BUY A HOME

THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT Authority’s (HRA) Rental Homes Program for First-Time Homebuyers helps families save for a house while renting one of 21 single-family homes in Bloomington. Each month HRA saves a portion of the rent for a future down payment. Families also experience living in and caring for a single-family home.

Mohamed Ibrahim and Ubah Jama, along with their four children, are participating in the program. Ibrahim, the first Somali graduate from the University of Minnesota Medical School, is in his third year of residency to become a surgeon. Ibrahim said the program’s five-year time frame works for his family. He also enjoys maintaining the home, raking leaves and mowing.

“The goal is perfect for us,” Ibrahim said. “We hope to buy a starter home and this gives us a feel of what it is like.”

Many different types of families have successfully completed the transition from renter to homeowner.

“This program exceeded our expectations,” Ibrahim said. “The forced savings is a very good benefit. In just two more years we hope to purchase our first home.”

Participants must enter into a five-year contract that identifies the goals they need to complete to become homeowners. Families must have a minimum of three and no more than six members, an annual income of at least \$23,550, and good credit and rental histories. Families pay a minimum rent and utilities of approximately \$785 per month. All applicants are subject to criminal background checks and household members must be U.S. citizens or have eligible immigration status.



The HRA is currently accepting applications for this program. For more information, call 952-563-8937.

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER FEATURES EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

THE GOAL OF THIS MONTH-LONG EFFORT is to provide an opportunity for all people with disabilities to learn about job requirements, job placement, training programs and community advocacy programs. A variety of educational workshops and activities will be held, including artwork exhibits, resume writing and job applications, self advocacy, Internet job searching and more.

Nominations are currently being sought for the Disability Employment Awareness Month Business Recognition Awards, given to businesses that excel in the employment of people with disabilities. For activities offered throughout the community, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: DEAM. For more information, call 952-563-4950.

KEEP YOUR MIND SHARP

EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN WITH MENTAL STIMULATION

MANY EXPERTS ON AGING BELIEVE THAT keeping your mind sharp with mental



stimulation may decrease your risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia. Math problems, crossword puzzles and memory games can be both fun and beneficial to your mind’s health. Take part in these stimulating brain activities and exercises at open computer lab sessions on the **2nd and 4th Mondays** of each month from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. Cost is \$3. For more information, call the Human Services Help Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

CELEBRATE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

VISIT YOUR FIRE STATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY

THE CITY’S SIX FIRE STATIONS AND Public Safety Training Facility celebrate National Fire Prevention Week with an open house on **Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Firefighters, Police and Public Works staff will be on hand, along with a variety of activities, demonstrations and tours. Free t-shirts and temporary tattoos will be available for kids. For more information, call 952-563-4801.



FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES			
Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.			
STATION NO.	ADDRESS	STATION NO.	ADDRESS
1	10 West 95th St.	4	4201 W. 84th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. S.	5	10540 Bush Lake Road
3	2050 E. 86th St.	6	8601 Lakeview Road



EACH YEAR, THOUSANDS OF MINNESOTANS are affected by disasters. Tornadoes, floods, fires and other emergencies have a lasting impact on both lives and property. To help every resident prepare for emergencies, the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Public Safety have joined forces to create CodeReady.

CodeReady educates Minnesotans about the importance of emergency preparedness and provides the tools they need to prepare. One campaign element is codeready.org, a Web site that helps families create a customized emergency plan and identifies what emergency supplies they should keep on hand. The site also connects visitors to

emergency preparedness resources and volunteer opportunities in the area.

“We’ve been involved with making plans for how the City will respond in emergency situations for some time,” said Public Health Administrator Karen Zeleznak. “This campaign will help citizens take the actions they need to keep themselves and their families safe.”

With CodeReady, Minnesota is one of the first states in the nation to develop an all-hazard preparedness campaign. For more information, visit codeready.org or call Bloomington Public Health’s Roz Johnson at 952-563-8995 or Lisa Brodsky at 952-563-4962 or Fire Chief and Emergency Manager Ulie Seal at 952-563-4801.



NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

THE BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS Commission is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. The Commission will honor an individual, business, volunteer group or religious group that has demonstrated leadership in promoting human rights in our city. The award recipient will be publicly recognized and receive a plaque. The deadline for Omar Bonderud Award nominations is **September 14**.

To receive an application, call 952-563-8733 or download a form at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Omar Bonderud.

TUNE IN TO SOME GREAT MUSIC

2007 FALL MUSIC SHOW



COME LISTEN TO COUNTRY MUSIC AND plenty of standards performed by the Crickets and the Renegades on **Thursday, September 27, 1 p.m.**, Schneider Theater, Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Tickets are \$3 at the door. Free admission to children age 12 and under. For group tickets, call Lois Liudahl at 952-831-3199. For more information, the Human Services Help Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.